(b) and (c) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 which has been enforced w.e.f. 7.2.96 provides that the appropriate Governments and the local authorities shall within the limits of their economic capacity and development provide for ramps in public buildings alongwith other measures.

Statement

Central and State Governments have been operating various schemes for the benefit of physically handicapped people. However, Central Government proposes to formulate various new schemes for the people with disabilities during 9th Five Year Plan for implementing the provi sions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995) to ensure better facilities for physically handicapped people. For this purpose, 5 Core Committees have been set up with the representatives of Government offi cials and NGOs to ensure better facilities for physically handicapped people. The priority areas identified are as follows:—

(1) Prevention, early detection and in tervention

(2) Education including pre-school education.

(3) Creation of barrier-free environ ment.

(4) Women and children and aged with disabilities.

(5) Vocational training and employ ment for people with disabilities.

2. Further, a Central Sector Scheme is being formulated to provide comprehensive and coordinated services to the people with disabilities specially for the rural areas. The scheme proposes to create the following infrastructure:

(1) An apex level institution at State level for basic rehabilitation services and manpower development.

(2) Distt, level rehabilitation services for all sectors of disabilities. |

(3) Multipurpose rehabilitation workers at Block/PHC level.

CBR workers at community/Gram Panchayat level.

3. National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation has been incorporated in January, 97 to provide financial support to help disabled inter-preneures in taking up self employment activities.

New Goldfield in Karnataka

*166. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chitradurga in Karnataka is emerging as gold field; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and measures contemplated by Govenrment to accelerate its development?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHY^: (a) and (b) The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has estimated a tentative reserve of 0.6 million tonnes of ore containing 4 gms. per tonne of gold in Chitradurga district of Karnataka. The Central Government have approved the grant of Prospecting Licence (P.L.) over an area of 30 acres in the Chitradurga district on 16.8.1996 in favour of Hutti Gold Mines Ltd. (HGML), a public sector undertaking of the State Government of Karnata- ka. The HGML is doing prospecting ' work in the area.